



International Conference for Postgraduate Students at the Institute for Advanced Social Research, Kwansei Gakuin University 2018

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メルボルン大学との学術交流カンファレンス

International Conference for Postgraduate Students at the Institute for Advanced Social Research, Kwansei Gakuin University 2018

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The Institute for Advanced Social Research at the Kwansei Gakuin University is committed to train young researchers and foster global graduates, as well as provide support for international dissemination of research results by graduate students as part of the Graduate Student Support Program (GSSP) and academic exchange projects. For example, over the past few years, the institute has been actively supporting graduate students' participation in overseas seminars and conferences at the Australia National University and The University of Melbourne.

Internationalization of higher education has been a subject of much attention in recent years in Japan, particularly since the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) launched the Global 30 project in 2009 to internationalize Japanese universities. However, this increased attention for internationalization also creates challenges for the higher education sector in Japan due to the overemphasis on international rankings, increasing the number of international students and outbound mobility programs. We need to remember that internationalization of higher education is more than outbound mobility, and if Japanese universities are to become truly “international”, they have to start “at home”. In other words, Japanese universities need to focus on “Internationalization at Home”, or “IaH”, which is “the purposeful integration of international and intercultural dimensions into the formal and informal curriculum for all students, within domestic learning environments” (Beelen & Jones, 2015). Therefore, universities in Japan need to provide more on-campus international and intercultural learning opportunities to the students.

With this in mind, in 2018, the Institute for Advanced Social Research organized an “Academic Lecture” and an international conference “2nd Postgraduate Conference in Japanese Studies” in English at Kwansei Gakuin University on 28th to 29th June. With the cooperation of the School & Graduate School of Sociology, the international conference was co-hosted with the Asia Institute of The University of Melbourne where an academic exchange and collaboration agreement was concluded in 2017 to contribute to academic research and developing global graduates.

A total of five participants—one graduate researcher, one doctoral and three master’s students conducting research related to Japan—from Kwansei Gakuin University presented their works in this international academic conference. With the exception of poster presenters, each participant was required to submit a 3000 word conference paper in English. Writing support to the participants from Kwansei Gakuin University including proofreading and English correction service was provided by the institute. Prior to the conference, a rehearsal session in English was also organized on June 22 at the seminar room of the Institute for Advanced Social Research. The rehearsal session provided the participants an ideal opportunity to find out the strengths and weaknesses of their papers and get feedback from their peers, as well as from the research fellows at the Institute for Advanced Social Research.

The two-day conference consisted of three oral sessions and one poster session. Each oral presentation was 20 minutes in length, followed by 10 minutes of questions and answers. A dinner was arranged for the participants at the Kwansei Gakuin Kaikan on the first evening of the conference. The conference dinner provided an opportunity for the participants to network and exchange new ideas. A free Wi-Fi access was also available at the conference venue for the delegates from The University of Melbourne.

A total of 12 papers, seven from The University of Melbourne and five from Kwansei Gakuin University, were presented in the two-day conference to an audience of academics, undergraduate and graduate students. The papers were presented both orally and as posters, covering various research topics related to Japan such as media, festivals, sports, gaming, community, identity, self-care, law, public policy, performing arts, war memory, anger expression, mobility and consumption. Participants from Kwansei Gakuin University and the titles of their presentations are as follows (in alphabetical order) :

Akira Watakabe (Master’s student)

Recalling “catastrophe” : An analysis of the events relating to the Atomic Bomb of Hiroshima

Hiromi Shimizu (Master’s student)

The effect of socioeconomic status on anger expression in Japan : A scrutiny using psychological entitlement

Marina Kitagawa (Master’s student)

The influence of opinions conveyed through mass media : Focusing on commentators in Japanese news show

Takafumi Misumi (PhD student)

Festivals through the perspectives of strangers : A case study of festivals and Mikoshi clubs in the Tokyo metropolitan area

Yuko Tanioka (Graduate researcher)

The conditions for inheriting the title of “Kawabata Geisha” : A case study of performing artists in Akita City and Yuzawa City in Akita, Japan

The “2nd Postgraduate Conference in Japanese Studies” began on Thursday, 28 June 2018 with opening remarks by Kensuke Suzuki, Deputy Director of the Institute for Advanced Social Research. The Deputy Director welcomed the participants, wishing the conference would promote dialogue and debate among the graduate students and be fruitful for both institutions. The aims and the various initiatives of the Institute for Advanced Social Research were introduced by Research Fellow Chie Fukuuchi to the audience.

The second session was an academic lecture where a keynote speech was delivered by Akihiro Ogawa, an internationally active scholar with a multi-disciplinary approach to social sciences and a Professor of Japanese Studies at The University of Melbourne. The speech was entitled “Beyond Methodological Nationalism : Envisioning Japanese Studies for the Next Generation”. Before the keynote speech, Koji Namba, Dean of the School of Sociology at Kwansei Gakuin University, welcomed Professor Ogawa and hoped that the keynote speech would give valuable insights and suggestions on how to change the propensity of focusing only on such unique cultures and customs of Japan as “otaku”, “ninja” in Japanese Studies abroad. While reviewing the scholarship over the past half century, Professor Ogawa’s keynote speech proposed that we should explore new approaches with a particular focus on how these ideas and issues can serve as solutions to global challenges in the twenty-first century. In particular, the speech indicated the importance of going beyond “methodological nationalism”. Unlike the conventional scholarship that has been mainly articulated within a discussion of nation-state societies and sees states and their governments as the cornerstones of a social sciences analysis, Professor Ogawa encouraged scholars in the next generation to look at Japanese society by trying to locate it within global interactions and dynamism. The speech highlighted some potential research topics such as environmentalism, aging society, energy policy, tourism, lifestyle, gender equality, social media, multiculturalism and civil society, as well as proposed to look at emerging places and scholars of Japanese Studies in the Asia Pacific region.

The keynote speech was followed by the post-lunch oral session. Three papers were presented in this session. Reflecting on the conception of “imagined community”, the first paper presented

by Sonja Petrovic, doctoral candidate at the Asia Institute of The University of Melbourne, looked at the case of the 2011 triple disaster that had profound implications for social changes and new interactions among individuals in Japan. The paper explored how online media fosters the creation of “imagined community” and provides a new channel for intimate connection and expression. Drawing on qualitative interviews conducted with participants living in Tokyo at the time of the disaster, her paper argued that online media has strong implications for individual perception of their sense of belonging to local and regional communities and how we conceptualize “imagined communities” in contemporary digital space. The second paper was presented by Takafumi Misumi, doctoral student at the Graduate School of Sociology of Kwansei Gakuin University. The paper explored the changing nature of urban festivals in Japan through the perspective of “stranger”. It examined how the *mikoshi* (portable shrine) clubs changed the *mikoshi* parade in the Tokyo metropolitan area. The paper found that the current practice of the *mikoshi* parades in Tokyo metropolitan area is a combination of values that seek to prioritize the community as a whole and self-fulfillment as the members of *mikoshi* clubs do not live in the same community and share no common religious beliefs. The final paper of this session presented by Asha Ross, doctoral candidate at the Asia Institute of The University of Melbourne, shed lights on the issues of identity and integrity as they are experienced through the practice of parkour. It proposed a discussion about the place of parkour in Japan, and the role of transnational social movements in contemporary society. Her paper highlighted that although parkour in Japan is rising in popularity within the youth culture, it is also experiencing obstacles of traditional perceptions of public space, gender roles, and behavior. As the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games draw closer, she argued that investigating the role of parkour in Japan would also provide an opportunity to explore the relationship between youth culture, physicality, and sense of identity in contemporary Japan.

Session 4 consisted of three oral presentations. The first paper presented by Adam Eldridge, doctoral student at the Asia Institute of The University of Melbourne, focused on what he terms the “*Sunakawa Settlement*”: an interrelated set of arrangements between Japanese government institutions and civil society that managed the competition over the meaning of Article 9 in post-WWII Japan. In his paper he sketched out the institutional arrangement dimension of the *Sunakawa Settlement* and noted that attempts in the literature to compare doctrines developed in the context of Article 9 to similar doctrines in other jurisdictions appear of limited value. The paper claimed that Article 9 is a completely unique provision and therefore, it does not readily lend its doctrines to comparison. In this regard, the paper proposed an alternative research approach that takes Japanese law on its own terms and examines the manner in which the Japanese Courts have treated trespass and civil disobedience cases in and out of the Article 9 context. The second paper presented by Hannah Gould, doctoral candidate at the School of

Social and Political Sciences of The University of Melbourne, investigated how retailers and artisans of Buddhist goods (*butsugu*) are venturing into the alternative spirituality, wellness, and home décor markets in contemporary Japan. In this analysis, she applied John Nelson's framework of "experimental Buddhism", focusing on commercial Buddhist actors outside the temple nexus. The paper also introduced the theoretical tools of affect and affective economies to understand the trend toward manufacturing products that generate healing (*iyashi*) and a calm heart (*kokoro*). She explained how noted Buddhist retailers now seek to re-orientate their services from caring at acute moments of grief to caring for everyday conditions of loneliness and stress. She argued that such efforts are still nascent, and religious industries face significant challenges navigating the subtle contradictions of their role in a rapidly secularizing spiritual market. The third paper presented by Shuntaro Iizuka, doctoral candidate at the School of Social and Political Sciences of The University of Melbourne, explored the consequences of contemporary public sector reform in the case of Japan's agency reform. The paper particularly focused on autonomy and control of agencies as well as agencies' perceptions about the relevant reforms. In doing so, the paper surveyed the CEOs of Japanese government agencies under the Independent Administrative Agency (IAA). The paper revealed that IAAs are not allowed to obtain sufficient strategic personnel autonomy and financial resources with which they would exercise their operational discretions. The paper also found that the financial autonomy is restricted by insufficient funding from the government.

The poster session held at the final session of Day 1, consisted of posters from three master's students from the Graduate School of Sociology of Kwansei Gakuin University. In her study Hiromi Shimizu revealed the relationship between subjective socioeconomic status (SES) and anger expression in Japan. Her study hypothesized that people with a high SES tend to express anger and this effect would be mediated by psychological entitlement. She conducted an online questionnaire survey of 599 Japanese participants and included a psychological entitlement scale as well as a subjective SES scale. The structural equation model demonstrated that people high in subjective SES tend to express anger and the effect of the expression of anger was mediated by psychological entitlement. In addition, her study also found that psychological entitlement was negatively correlated with the extent of the feelings of anger. In this result, people with a high SES tended to express anger without feeling, implying that high SES people could justify expressing anger because of their psychological entitlement. Akira Watakabe's study shed lights on the memories of the atomic bomb of Hiroshima. He introduced a new modified version of Shusaku Ejima's (1977) theoretical framework to explain the integration of Hiroshima based on the experiences of the atomic bomb and analyzed events relating to Hiroshima that were held in 1955, 1975, 1995, and 2017. His study found that the methods of recalling "Hiroshima" have changed : first, the orientation of the events is now varied, and second, in the past only people

who had experienced the atomic bomb of Hiroshima attended the events, but now, people who did not experience the bomb, also attend. The analysis of his study indicated that people who do not experience catastrophic events gradually acquire the rights to recall them and that the mechanisms of succeeding memory have changed. On the other hand, Marina Kitagawa's research focused on "commentators" and explored the influence of their presence in Japanese news show through two studies. First, she designed a survey to clarify whether commentators' remarks were recognized as information conveyed by the mass media or as the opinions of others to whom people feel close. The survey was conducted online and the results demonstrated that: i) people considered experts to be authentic and reliable, ii) people considered non-experts to be ordinary and close, iii) people who have less political knowledge tend to be more favorable towards commentators in general, regardless of their attributes. Second, she conducted a laboratory experiment in order to investigate the influence of opinions on the formation of public opinion. Although there were gender differences in the degree of influence, the hypothesis that being exposed to comments crystallized people's opinions more was not statistically significant. The results of her study revealed that for every citizen there is the possibility to appropriately predict the media influence on the acceptance of unobtrusive issues.

Day 2, 30 August (Wednesday), of the 2nd Postgraduate Conference in Japanese Studies had two sessions. The first session was an oral session and had three papers. The post-lunch session was an open discussion session. Finally, closing remarks were made.

The first paper presented by Stefan Fuchs, doctoral candidate at the Asia Institute of The University of Melbourne, explored how the connection between public transport and retail influences consumption behaviours in Japan. Based on ethnographic fieldwork in a shopping mall in a Tokyo suburb, the paper examined different processes by which repeated activities of shopping and leisure become embedded into everyday commuting routines. Using data from observations and interviews, the paper suggested that within such a system of public transport and retail the boundaries between commuting and consumption are blurred and for passengers the shopping mall becomes a highly integrated, palpable part of their daily routes. The next paper presented by Yuko Tanioka, graduate researcher at the Graduate School of Sociology of Kwansei Gakuin University, introduced a case study of performing folk artists working as "geishas" in Akita Prefecture from 2014 to 2018, who are expected to become "Kawabata Geishas", and highlighted how the geisha community in Japan is confronted with a lack of successors to take over their "art," which is based on local knowledge, expression, experience, and collective identity. By focusing the narratives of a "Kawabata Geisha" named Wakayu, the paper explained the variations of context for inheriting the title of "Kawabata Geisha" and the

contextual conflict between “Kawabata Geisha” and people who expected to succeed to this culture. The final paper presented by Asako Patricia Saito, doctoral candidate at the Asia Institute of The University of Melbourne, illustrated the transnational nature of the “Boys love”, or “BL” fandom, and examined the convergence of cultures in BL texts created by contemporary Chinese, Japanese, and Taiwanese writers. The paper explained how the texts take inspiration from the beautiful male characters in Dynasty Warriors, a Japanese game series which features historical figures and events from the Chinese Three Kingdoms period. By referring to historical records, BL texts, and interviews with the people who wrote them, it demonstrated how a Chinese myth is linked in a transnational semantic chain with the contemporary worlds of Japanese gaming and BL. In this process, the paper highlighted the multi-directional and transnational trajectory of culture flows within East Asia.

The oral presentation session was followed by the post-lunch open discussion session where discussions and comments were made on all the works presented over the two days. The open discussion session had generated much stimulating discussions and new ideas.

In the closing remarks, Professor Akihiro Ogawa of the Asia Institute congratulated the participants to be a part of a successful program and expressed hope that the good relations between the two institutions would continue in the future. Director Takuji Okuno of the Institute for Advanced Social Research expressed his gratitude, stating that the conference was successful as it generated much discussions and insights. Professor Okuno also expressed his hope that collaboration with the Asia Institute that has diverse intellectual resources would strengthen the international education and research activities of Kwansei Gakuin University and thereby the Institute for Advanced Social Research would actively contribute to the international community. In order to further develop the relationship between the Asia Institute and the Institute for Advanced Social Research, it was mutually agreed upon to extend the academic exchanges and collaboration agreement between the two institutions.

We strongly believe that the “2nd Postgraduate Conference in Japanese Studies” held at the Institute for Advanced Social Research, Kwansei Gakuin University in 2018 was a great success as the conference provided a great opportunity for the participants to present and share their research findings in English, exchange their ideas, and get valuable feedback from experts in Japanese Studies. This was also the first time that the Institute for Advanced Social Research organized such an on-campus, postgraduate-student-oriented, international conference in English. We are deeply indebted to all who helped us to organize this conference. We would like to thank our co-sponsors: School & Graduate School of Sociology of Kwansei Gakuin University and the Asia Institute of The University of Melbourne. We are grateful to our

keynote speaker and co-convenor Professor Akihiro Ogawa. We are also grateful to the Director of the Asia Institute Professor Pookong Kee for his continued support. We hope that through organizing on-campus collaborative academic programs with internationally renowned institutions, we will further expand our “Internationalization at Home (IaH)” activities and contribute to the development of competent global graduates for a diverse and complicated yet interconnected global environment.

Below is the outline of the program.

2nd Postgraduate Conference in Japanese Studies

- Co-Sponsor :** Institute for Advanced Social Research, Kwansei Gakuin University and Asia Institute, The University of Melbourne
- Cooperation :** School & Graduate School of Sociology, Kwansei Gakuin University
- Co-Convenor :** Eid-UI Hasan (Institute for Advanced Social Research, Kwansei Gakuin University) and Akihiro Ogawa (Asia Institute, The University of Melbourne)
- Date :** Thursday, 28-Friday, 29 June 2018
- Venue :** Seminar Room, Institute for Advanced Social Research, Kwansei Gakuin University (Nishinomiya Uegahara Campus)

PROGRAM

DAY 1 : THURSDAY, 28 JUNE 2018

Time	Details
10 : 00-10 : 30	Morning Tea Session 1 Opening Remarks : Kensuke Suzuki (Deputy Director, Institute for Advanced Social Research, Kwansei Gakuin University) Introductory Comments : Chie Fukuuchi (Research Fellow, Institute for Advanced Social Research, Kwansei Gakuin University)
11 : 10-12 : 40	Session 2 Chair : Eid-UI Hasan (Research Fellow, Institute for Advanced Social Research, Kwansei Gakuin University) Greetings : Koji Namba (Dean, School of Sociology, Kwansei Gakuin University) Keynote Speech : <i>Beyond methodological nationalism : Envisioning Japanese Studies for the next generation</i> Akihiro Ogawa (Professor, Asia Institute, The University of Melbourne)

12 : 40-13 : 30	Lunch Break
13 : 30-15 : 00	<p>Session 3 Theme : Community and Identity Chair : Yoshihiro Seki (Professor, School of Sociology, Kwansei Gakuin University)</p> <p>Oral Presentation 1 (13 : 30-14 : 00) : <i>Revisiting “imagined communities” in digital space : The case of the 3.11 disaster</i> Sonja Petrovic (PhD Candidate, Asia Institute, The University of Melbourne)</p> <p>Oral Presentation 2 (14 : 00-14 : 30) : <i>Festivals through the perspectives of strangers : A case study of festivals and Mikoshi clubs in the Tokyo metropolitan area</i> Takafumi Misumi (PhD Student, Graduate School of Sociology, Kwansei Gakuin University)</p> <p>Oral Presentation 3 (14 : 30-15 : 00) : <i>Sport, discipline, or lifestyle : Identity, integrity, and change in the transnational Parkour community</i> Asha Ross (PhD Candidate, Asia Institute, The University of Melbourne)</p>
15 : 00-15 : 10	Tea Break
15 : 10-16 : 40	<p>Session 4 Theme : Continuity and Change Chair : Kiyoshi Abe (Professor, School of Sociology, Kwansei Gakuin University)</p> <p>Oral Presentation 4 (15 : 10-15 : 40) : <i>The Sunakawa Settlement 1947-2014?</i> Adam Eldridge (PhD Student, Asia Institute, The University of Melbourne)</p> <p>Oral Presentation 5 (15 : 40-16 : 10) : <i>From a ‘good death’ to a ‘calm heart’ : Buddhist retailing and self-care in contemporary Japan</i> Hannah Gould (PhD Candidate, School of Social and Political Sciences, The University of Melbourne)</p> <p>Oral Presentation 6 (16 : 10-16 : 40) : <i>Consequences of public sector reform : Surveying Japanese agencies</i> Shuntaro Iizuka (PhD Candidate, School of Social and Political Sciences, The University of Melbourne)</p>
16 : 40-16 : 50	Tea Break
16 : 50-17 : 50	<p>Session 5 Poster Session Chair : Miku Ito (Research Fellow, Institute for Advanced Social Research, Kwansei Gakuin University)</p>

	<p>Poster Presentation 1 : <i>The effect of socioeconomic status on anger expression in Japan : A scrutiny using psychological entitlement</i> Hiroimi Shimizu (Master's Student, Graduate School of Sociology, Kwansei Gakuin University)</p> <p>Poster Presentation 2 : <i>Recalling "catastrophe": An analysis of the events relating to the Atomic Bomb of Hiroshima</i> Akira Watakabe (Master's Student, Graduate School of Sociology, Kwansei Gakuin University)</p> <p>Poster Presentation 3 : <i>The influence of opinions conveyed through mass media : Focusing on commentators in Japanese news show</i> Marina Kitagawa (Master's Student, Graduate School of Sociology, Kwansei Gakuin University)</p>
18 : 30-	Conference Dinner (<i>Tsubasa No Ma</i>, Kwansei Gakuin Kaikan)

DAY 2 : FRIDAY, 29 JUNE 2018

Time	Details
10 : 30-11 : 00	Morning Tea
11 : 00-12 : 30	<p>Session 6 Theme : Mobility and Culture on the Flow Chair : Yuji Tateishi (Professor, School of Sociology, Kwansei Gakuin University)</p> <p>Oral Presentation 7 (11 : 00-11 : 30) : <i>Mobility and consumption : The interrelation of public transport networks and shopping malls in urban Japan</i> Stefan Fuchs (PhD Candidate, Asia Institute, The University of Melbourne)</p> <p>Oral Presentation 8 (11 : 30-12 : 00) : <i>The conditions for inheriting the title of "Kawabata Geisha": A case study of performing artists in Akita City and Yuzawa City in Akita, Japan</i> Yuko Tanioka (Graduate Researcher, Graduate School of Sociology, Kwansei Gakuin University)</p> <p>Oral Presentation 9 (12 : 00-12 : 30) : <i>Gaming, myths, and men who love men : A convergence of cultures in Dynasty Warriors BL texts</i> Asako Patricia Saito (PhD Candidate, Asia Institute, The University of Melbourne)</p>
12 : 30-13 : 30	Lunch Break

13 : 30-15 : 00	Session 7 Open Discussions Chair : Eid-UI Hasan (Research Fellow, Institute for Advanced Social Research, Kwansei Gakuin University)
15 : 00-15 : 30	Closing Remarks : Akihiro Ogawa (Professor, Asia Institute, The University of Melbourne) Takuji Okuno (Director, Institute for Advanced Social Research, Kwansei Gakuin University)
15 : 30-	Museum, Library & Campus Visit